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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

(Rationalised Report according to the Notice of the President of the EPO published in the OJ11/2001)

Applicant's or agent's file reference Mo-7289PCT			fication of Transmittal of International ary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)					
International application No.	International filing date (day month yea		r) Priority date (day/month/year)					
			23/01/2002					
PCT/US 03/ 01823	21/01/2003		23/01/2002					
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC								
C22C32/00								
Applicant								
H.C. STARCK INC. et al.								
This international preliminary exa Authority and is transmitted to the This REPORT consists of a total control of the Percent Consists of the Perc	e applicant according to Article	30.						
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 2 sheets, including this cover sheet.								
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).								
These annexes consists of a total of sheets.								
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:								
I X Basis of the report								
II Priority								
III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability								
IV Lack of unity of invention								
V X Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement								
VI Certain documents cited								
VII Certain defects in the international application								
VIII Certain observations on the international application								
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Date of submission of the demand	Dat	e of completion	of this report					
26/03/2003		05/11/	SAISCHES PATEAL					
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D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0, Tx: 52: Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	2828 2828							
Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) P20476 (October 2002)								

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

I. Basis of the report

The basis of this international preliminary examination is the application as originally filed.

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability

In light of the documents cited in the international search report, it is considered that the invention as defined in at least some of the claims does not appear to meet the criteria mentioned in Article 33(1) PCT, i.e. does not appear to be novel and/or to involve an inventive step (see international search report, in particular the documents cited X and/or Y and corresponding claim references).